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Messages

1 [Recess Hopes to Be Highland Park's Coolest New Restaurant](#)

Thu Aug 28, 2014 5:37 pm (PDT) . Posted by: asncalert

Mon, Aug 25, 2014 at 8:30 AM

By Andy Hermann

<http://m.laweekly.com/squidink/2014/08/25/recess-hopes-to-be-highland-parks-coolest-new-restaurant>
<http://m.laweekly.com/squidink/2014/08/25/recess-hopes-to-be-highland-parks-coolest-new-restaurant>

The busy stretch of York Boulevard between Avenues 50 and 52 in Highland Park is about to get another restaurant. The 3,500-square-foot site, formerly home to the Verdugo Pet Store, has been leased by Sevan Abdessian, owner/chef of Recess Eatery in Glendale, who plans to open a second Recess restaurant there in 2015.

The new Recess will offer a similar menu to Abdessian's current location at the north end of Brand Boulevard, with a California-meets-Mediterranean play on comfort foods, from fresh pastas and seafood to gourmet burgers and hearty salads. Many menu items will continue to have whimsical names, but

with a HLP-specific twist, like the fish and chips entree rechristened the “Duke of York.”

Abdessian, a former Patina Group chef, is excited to be a part of the trendy street he describes as the next Melrose Avenue. But, he says, “besides all that hype, I fell in love with our building. It’s a 1924 building that is so unique.”

Spacecraft’s Kris Keith, who is designing the space, agrees. Already, since construction began two weeks ago, he’s modifying his design to incorporate antique brickwork his team uncovered when they removed the stucco from the building’s façade. “We’re definitely going to leave it exposed and light it at night,” he says. They’re also going to expose the building’s bow truss ceilings in the spacious interior, which will include an open kitchen, full bar and takeout counter.

One of the restaurant’s nicest elements, according to both Abdessian and Keith, will be the 1,400-square-foot back patio, with olive trees, a fireplace and a communal table with heated seating. “We’re Mediterranean and we grew up living outdoors,” says Abdessian’s wife, Tamar Kevonian. “We were never interested in any building that did not allow for outdoor seating.”

Abdessian is eyeing an early 2015 opening, but plans to let Keith take as long as he needs to get the space just right: “We want to make a big statement” when “Recess #2” opens for business, he says.

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2 Staycation at The Frog Spot

Thu Aug 28, 2014 11:41 pm (PDT) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

Staycation on the Los Angeles River!

Type this address into your GPS: 2825 Benedict Street, LA 90039 and make a beeline to The Frog Spot! On Saturday and Sunday from 8AM - 4PM, relax on our riverside patio and enjoy free amenities such as ice water, wi-fi, and restrooms, plus receive a free map of the LA River for exploring. We offer a variety of pastimes and refreshments at our shady spot along the Los Angeles River bike path, and you can learn about river revitalization plans from our docents. We'll be closed on Monday for the holiday.

On Saturday nights from 5-8PM, The Frog Spot hosts a fundraiser for Friends of the Los Angeles River entitled, SUNSET AT THE OASIS. A \$15 donation to FoLAR river programs offers live music in our open-air lounge with light snacks and beer, wine or soda. All ages are welcome.

PERFORMING SATURDAY, AUG 30:

Skaie Knox

Singer / Songwriter

Skaie Knox calls Manhattan Beach home, and her musical career includes performing live (opening for Tori Amos, Dishwalla, Lilith Faire, and Randy Newman), writing and recording numerous albums and songs for film & television, and touring internationally.

Ella Smith
Original indie folk

Ella Smith hails from Redondo Beach, and her sweet, lilting, almost haunting vocals reverberate across musical eras.

David Holguin
Solo flamenco guitar

A North East Los Angeles musician, David Holguin has performed and studied flamenco guitar since he was a teenager and boasts a rich, expressive sound borne of devotion and discipline.

Trail of Beer Cans
Energetic acoustic folk punk storyteller

Trail of Beer Cans is Anthony Hannaford. Former guitarist for Pat Todd and the Rankoutsiders, Anthony is a singer and songwriter from Long Beach. He has been seen playing with bands like The French Exit, Kevin Seconds (from 7 Seconds) and Andrew Jackson Jihad.

2825 Benedict Street
LA 90039
323 351-8677
www.thefrogspot.org
[@TheFrogSpot](#)

From Riverside Drive, take Newell Street northeast until it ends. A quick right on the bike path will lead you to The Frog Spot. Easy street parking on the weekends.

Friends of the Los Angeles River
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 250
Los Angeles, CA 90065
(323) 223-0585
contact@folar.org

www.folar.org
www.facebook.com/LosAngelesRiver
[@FoLARtweets](https://twitter.com/FoLARtweets)

Address postal inquiries to:
Friends of the Los Angeles River
570 W. Ave 26, Ste. 250
Los Angeles, CA 90065-1047

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3 **Free Pet Education Seminar at Hermon Park**

Thu Aug 28, 2014 11:41 pm (PDT) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

August 31st, from 5-7 pm
With Speaker Dr. Lisa Hsuan, D.V.M.

Topic: "Summertime Health Issues"

Friends of Hermon Dog Park is pleased to sponsor this event!

When: Sunday, August 31st (from 5-7 pm) chairs provided by Council District-14

Where: Hermon Dog Park (5568 Via Marisol, Los Angeles, CA 90042)

What: Dr. Lisa will begin speaking at 5 pm for one hour on different topics including allergies, fleas, fox-tails, and ailments. From 6-7 pm she will follow her talk with a question and answer session. Here's your chance to gain valuable knowledge about your four-legged friend and gain new perspective.

Who: Dr. Lisa Hsuan's clinic is Animal Health Care Center in Eagle Rock. To learn more about Dr. Lisa click here (www.ahccla.com/our-staff)

Refreshments will be provided by Friends of Hermon Dog Park. Come by the booth for dog treats and to get other valuable information. Dr. Lisa will be providing a door prize at the end of the seminar.

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4 **The Mormons' Sweet 16 Birthday Party!**

Thu Aug 28, 2014 11:41 pm (PDT) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

Saturday, Aug. 30 at 8:00pm

Cafe NELA
1906 Cypress Ave, Los Angeles, California 90065

A cool and fun birthday for The Mormons!
Featuring: BadTown Boys, The Black Widows and Bloody Brains!
21 and up and only \$5!

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5 **Action Alert: Hyperion Bridge Sidewalk at Risk for Removal**

Thu Aug 28, 2014 11:41 pm (PDT) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

The long saga of the Hyperion Avenue Viaduct, connecting Silver Lake and Atwater Village over the Los Angeles River, continues. As Streetsblog reported earlier this month, the city's traffic studies show that the most progressive option (two sidewalks, buffered bike lanes and a three-lane road diet) move cars just as effectively as the current four-lane configuration. This option is safer for everyone, maintains pedestrian access and dramatically improves conditions for bicyclists. The Hyperion Citizens Advisory Committee, including representatives from LACBC and Los Angeles Walks, voted 6 to 3 in support of this option.

Yet a vocal contingent in Atwater refuses to let the facts carry the day, potentially derailing the best option for the bridge. Councilmember Tom LaBonge has already announced his opposition to a livable bridge, citing disproved claims about traffic delays and truck routes.

The Eastsider this week covered the vocal factions that each support different options.

Now is the time for biking, walking and traffic safety advocates to be heard. Please send emails in support of Option 3 to Councilmembers LaBonge and O'Farrell, Mayor Garcetti and the Board of Public Works. A sample message is below:

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, tom.labonge@lacity.org
CC: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Kevin.James@lacity.org, Monica.Rodriguez@lacity.org,
Matt.Szabo@lacity.org, Mike.Davis@lacity.org, Barbara.Romero@lacity.org
BCC: alek@la-bike.org

Subject: Save the Hyperion Bridge Sidewalk: Support Option 3

Dear Councilmen LaBonge and O'Farrell,

I support Option 3 for the Hyperion Viaduct, which preserves sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and adds buffered bike lanes so that people can walk and bike between Silver Lake and Atwater Village in safety and comfort. Even though this option reduces a downhill traffic lane, city studies show that this road diet will not have any impact on traffic. Option 3 is the safest alternative, provides the most mobility for all residents and will let people walk and bike to a revitalized Los Angeles River that is currently inaccessible for many Angelenos. No other option provides all of these benefits for a more livable Los Angeles.

Please support Option 3 to have buffered bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of Hyperion.

Sincerely,
Name
Address

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6 [Officials launch sweep of Arroyo Seco homeless camps](#)

Thu Aug 28, 2014 11:41 pm (PDT) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/08/officials-launch-sweep-of-arroyo-seco-homeless-camps/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29 http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/08/officials-launch-sweep-of-arroyo-seco-homeless-camps/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29

A homeless encampment being cleaned up near Bridewell Street | Martha Benedict

A multi-agency task force this week launched a clean up of the homeless encampments that have mushroomed along the Arroyo Seco and the 110 Freeway in Hermon and Montecito Heights, where some of the make-shift homes had second bedrooms and were equipped with TVs and computers powered by electricity tapped from power poles.

The sweep of homeless camps – many visible from the 110 Freeway – began Tuesday and will continue through today in a coordinated effort involving police officers, firefighters, county social workers and employees from the Department of Sanitation and Recreation and Parks, according to Martha Benedict, a member of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. The sweep and clean up was organized by Councilman Gil Cedillo's Field Deputy Sylvia Robledo.

The encampments of tarps, tents and salvaged wood sheets have raised concern among local residents as their numbers have increased and spread from the Arroyo Seco and into Debs Park.

Debris and trash collected from encampments | Photo by Martha Benedict

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7 Makeover brewing for Highland Park's "depressing"

Thu Aug 28, 2014 11:41 pm (PDT) . Posted by: [asncaalert](#)

http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/08/makeover-brewing-for-highland-parks-depressing-starbucks/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29 http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/08/makeover-brewing-for-highland-parks-depressing-starbucks/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheEastsiderLa+%28The+Eastsider+LA%29

HIGHLAND PARK — Stung by criticism about the design of its new York Boulevard store, Starbucks officials have pledged to remodel the shop that has been derided as "the most depressing Starbucks in America."

<http://abc7.com/business/highland-park-starbucks-most-depressing-in-america/264222/> <http://abc7.com/business/highland-park-starbucks-most-depressing-in-america/264222/>

Highland Park architect Catherine Garrison, who was highly critical of the new store's design in a review for The Eastsider, met with Bill Sleeth, Starbucks Vice President of Design For The Americas and company spokeswoman Haley P. Drage to hear about the company's plan to improve the store.

<http://abc7.com/business/highland-park-starbucks-most-depressing-in-america/264222/> <http://abc7.com/business/highland-park-starbucks-most-depressing-in-america/264222/>

"They wanted to tell me about their plans to redesign the Starbucks," said Garrison, who met with the Starbucks executives at the Highland Park store on Wednesday morning. "The plans sound good and I think HP will end up with a much better community space as a result."

The drive-thru Highland Park Starbucks, which is located in the former Classic Burger restaurant, was dinged for lacking an indoor dining room, an awkward layout, inferior building materials, and, according to Garrison, "a tragic pastiche of design" that showed "a lack of respect for the neighborhood."

How is Starbucks going to fix the Highland Park Starbucks? Garrison provided a summary of the changes:

- Additional storefront windows where customers order which will increase contact with employees.

There will be one window to order and another to pick up.

- Relocating and screening the bathroom door
- Removing salvaged windows and installing roll-up doors
- Converting the planter in front to sidewalk seating and creating two pedestrian entrances of the sidewalk.
- Replacing the roll-up metal doors with two large recycled wood doors that slide barn door style.
- Enhancing the side patio experience through a trellis and lighting

Company officials told Garrison they plan to start working on the store soon.

Related Link:

- Boyle Heights vs. Highland Park: A tale of two Starbucks

<http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2014/08/boyle-heights-vs-highland-park-a-tale-of-two-starbucks/>

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